

To: Chairs and Members of Public Services Boards (PSBs), and supporting officers

18 July 2023

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to congratulate you on developing and publishing your local well-being plans for 2023-28.

We appreciate the scale of challenge in producing these plans. When the first round of plans was published in 2017, we had yet to feel the impacts of Brexit. COVID-19 and the cost of living crisis were not upon us. And we had not yet declared climate and nature emergencies. While it is our hope that the next five years will see greater stability, it is clear that PSBs have played an important role in enabling responsive joint working across Wales, critical for our longer-term resilience.

We are writing to you collectively to outline where we think PSBs can have the greatest impact in the next cycle of well-being plans, and our offer of support to help you deliver this. The attached annex sets out our initial analysis of the local well-being plans and the current support available to PSBs. This is not a fixed offer. We expect it to evolve as we work with you and your officers to co-develop it.

In the meantime, we have both received considerable feedback regarding the benefits to you of sharing good practice and hearing from those with expertise in key topics and issues. We will be delivering an event aimed at PSB members this winter (2023-24). Its purpose will be to bring people together, share learning and good practice on a range of topics, and explore the support for PSBs. We will be in touch about this in due course.

We welcome your feedback on support for delivering your local well-being plans, including any barriers or challenges preventing you from being able to progress. Please send this to lgpolicy.correspondence@gov.wales and contactus@futuregenerations.wales.

Yours sincerely



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Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol
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Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol /
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Annex A

Delivery of the local well-being plans (2023-28)

While a detailed analysis of the local well-being plans is under way, it is already clear there are common themes relating to the ***climate and nature emergencies*** (adaptation and mitigation), the ***impact of poverty***, and ***community well-being***.

Other common themes are likely to emerge. Our officers will work with you to develop a programme of advice, guidance and support to bring clarity to the plethora of information on these themes and help you make informed decisions on your priorities.

Discussions with you have made it clear that it is not just important to focus on '*what*' the plans contain, but also '*how*' to deliver them. We are interested in looking at the lessons from previous work and work elsewhere on the critical factors that can help PSBs deliver the ambition set out within their well-being plans. We want to explore this with you and your teams.

First and foremost, we believe focussing on the five ways of working is a good place to start. And one of the critical success factors that will help you deliver your local well-being plan is the effectiveness of your board's collaboration. The work of Dr Elizabeth Woodcock is shared with you [here](#) to help your PSB to reflect on the barriers to collaboration and how to overcome these.

It sets out the importance of establishing a culture within a PSB (and other strategic partnerships) where every partner has equal influence, open discussions are encouraged, and decisions take account of the membership's diversity.

Another critical success factor is consideration and understanding of the long-term, ensuring the needs of future generations are being considered and reflected in your work. This will help enable your PSB to build resilience, adapt as the future evolves and take action in complex situations.

Our support offer to you

The challenges identified within your local well-being assessments and plans are significant. They require investment now to make the task of securing well-being in the future more likely to succeed.

As your focus now turns to delivering the commitments set out within your well-being plans, we want to work with you and ensure you have the right support available. To do this, we are collaborating with a range of partners to provide support and give you the capability and capacity to deliver your well-being plans. Some of the support already underway is outlined below:



- Providing a **regional support grant for PSBs** for the new cycle of well-being plans focused on building capacity and capability for engagement and involvement.
- Offering a range of **learning and development opportunities**. A list of the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner's upcoming learning opportunities can be found here.
<https://www.futuregenerations.wales/work/providing-advice-to-public-bodies-and-psbs/>
- Working with our research colleagues in the Wales Centre for Public Policy to **support the use of evidence** in PSBs. This includes building research capacity and preparing briefings for PSBs on high priority topics of common interest.
- Continuing to run the **national network meetings, topic focused webinars and online meetings**, enriched by external speakers.
- **Working with public service partners and networks** such as Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales, and Co-Production Network for Wales to ensure join-up and provide a coordinated support package on areas of delivery and ways of working.

We want to make sure the support we offer is tailored to meet the needs of PSBs over the lifetime of your well-being plans.

This [maturity matrix](#) is a helpful self-assessment tool that can help your PSB appraise where it may benefit from additional support and guidance in relation to the five ways of working.